

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Specialist Levi B. Kinchen upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Specialist Levi B. Kinchen; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen was a native of Albany and was a graduate of Albany High School and known throughout the small, patriotic, southeastern Louisiana community as a young man who felt it was his duty to leave his home to serve his country in its war on terror; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen enlisted in the Army shortly after high school, following in his older brother's footsteps of military service and determined to overcome his natural fear of being in combat by doing that very thing and fighting the enemies of his homeland; and

WHEREAS, while Specialist Kinchen understood the dangers associated with life in the combat zone, his mother, Barbara Kinchen, said of her son "He was ready to go, that's what he wanted to do, he knew the consequences," and had insisted on being baptized before leaving for the war; and

1           WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment  
2           based at Fort Polk when the unit was deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operations with the  
3           mission of finding, fixing, and destroying terrorist elements conducting operations out of  
4           Baghdad; and

5           WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen dedicated himself to the accomplishment of his  
6           unit's mission, always placing the needs of his unit, his country, and his comrades before his  
7           own; and

8           WHEREAS, while Specialist Kinchen loved his family and friends and missed them  
9           dearly during his tour of duty in Southwest Asia, he also loved his country, displaying an  
10          unwavering devotion to this nation at a time when enemies around the world have sworn to  
11          harm America and extinguish the bright light of freedom that this nation carries in a dark,  
12          threatening, and troubled world; and

13          WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen was only 21 years old as he bravely confronted the  
14          daily emotional toll of seeing fellow soldiers wounded and killed and as he weathered the  
15          brutal, unrelenting heat and sand of the desert days and the long, cold, dark loneliness of his  
16          nights in a hostile land; and

17          WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen, for reasons known only to God, never woke from  
18          one of those nights on August 9, 2003, leaving family, friends, and fellow soldiers only the  
19          wonderful memories of his love and dedication to his country; and

20          WHEREAS, Specialist Kinchen will forever be remembered for his sacrifice and as  
21          a reminder that freedom is never free and Americans sometimes must fight to protect the  
22          freedoms and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

23          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
24          express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a grateful state and  
25          nation to the family of United States Army Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.

26          THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be  
27          transmitted to the family of Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Specialist Levi B. Kinchen.